

Veterans Services

Fred Murphy, Veterans Service Officer

MISSION STATEMENT

The Veterans Services Office works in association with other government agencies to advocate for veteran's rights and to identify, apply for and retain benefits and services for veterans and their families.

VETERANS SERVICES FUND 100 / APPROPRIATION 53650

	Actual 2003-04	Actuals 2004-05	Requested 2005-06	Recommended 2005-06	Change %	Adopted 2005-06
Expenditures						
Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$ 209,654	\$ 232,184	\$ 264,448	\$ 257,840	11%	\$ 257,840
Services and Supplies	20,798	27,102	28,280	27,380	1%	27,380
Net Budget:	\$ 230,452	\$ 259,286	\$ 292,728	\$ 285,220	10%	\$ 285,220
Revenue						
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 24,037	\$ 26,295	\$ 22,312	\$ 22,312	-15%	\$ 22,312
Other Financing Sources	13,000	3,530	-	-	-100%	-
Total Revenue:	37,037	29,825	22,312	22,312	-25%	22,312
Net County Cost:	\$ 193,415	\$ 229,461	\$ 270,416	\$ 262,908	15%	\$ 262,908
Allocated Positions	3	3	3	3	0%	3

CORE FUNCTION

Veterans Services

Veterans Services assists clients in obtaining benefits from state and federal government agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for claims related to compensation and pensions, survivor benefits, education, vocational rehabilitation, home loans, life insurance, and burial benefits. One of the main functions of the office is to deliver the State of California's College Fee Waiver Program to the children of disabled veterans. The office also assists veterans in obtaining medical treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

FY 2004-05 Major Accomplishments

- At the state level, assisted in preventing an attempt by an organization to receive a portion of state subvention and license plate money that is paid to the county veterans service offices.
- Provided a vital, timely and efficient system of services and advocacy to veterans, and for their dependents and survivors.
- Intervened on behalf of the veterans in solving difficulties with receiving benefits from the health care service delivery system for veterans.

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FY 2005-06 Planned Accomplishments

- Rewriting the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers strategic plan.
- Continue to lobby for increased state funding for the County Veterans Service Officers Fund.
- Connect to the VA computer system to provide real time system information.
- Continue outreach efforts to veterans and their families with a primary focus on veterans in the senior community.
- In cooperation with the Health and Human Services Department, identify all veterans and their dependents in Placer County who are either on Medi-cal, living in a skilled nursing facility, or homeless.

Department Comments

Due to changes in the medical-fee structure, the department effectively managed an increase in the number of veterans seeking assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Staff expects the demand for claims in the next fiscal year to remain flat, with the requests for services to increase. The demand for monetary claims for veterans or their families confined to skilled nursing facilities is expected to increase in the next year, and this trend will continue into the future as the baby boomers continue to age.

County Executive Comments and Recommendations

The Veterans Services net budget reflects a modest increase over last year. The anticipated increase in demand for services due to on-going military engagements world wide, has not yet materialized, and is reflected by the \$3,594 reduction in revenue from the State. The County Executive Office will be working with the department to expand outreach efforts to area veterans and their families using the Veterans' Vehicle License Fee Trust Fund, as well as increasing access to appropriate supportive services in Health & Human Services.

Final Budget Changes from the Proposed Budget

None

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CORE FUNCTION: VETERANS SERVICES

Compensation & Pension Claims Program

Program Purpose: To assess eligibility for compensation for service-connected disabilities and pension funding for disabled veterans, prepare applications, and act as the advocate for veterans and their families to maximize their benefit potential.

Total Expenditures: \$185,395

Total Staffing: 1.90

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Veterans and their families achieve maximum benefits.

Compensation & Pension Claims Indicators:	Actual 2002-03	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Projected 2005-06
# of claims filed	384	442	523	410
# of awards received	228	258	201	200
\$ of awards received	\$1,193,452	\$1,369,637	\$1,578,000	\$1,200,000

Program Comments: The decline in compensation and pension awards is the result of two factors. There are fewer people leaving the military, thus there are fewer new claimants. The second factor is the huge backlog of unfinished claims. The regional office that processes our claims presently has over 14,000 open claims. Historically the number is around 5,000.

College Fee Waiver Program

Program Purpose: To assess eligibility for and approve applications submitted by children of disabled veterans for waivers in tuition and system wide fees for University of California, California State University and community colleges to assist them in achieving higher education.

Total Expenditures: \$39,030

Total Staffing: 0.40

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Children of disabled veterans receive higher education.

College Fee Waiver Indicators:	Actual 2002-03	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Projected 2005-06
# of waivers granted	152	194	181	200
\$ of waivers granted	\$284,696	\$452,842	\$450,419	\$468,000

Program Comments: Working with the County Office of Education to promote the College Fee Waiver Program has been more of a success than we initially anticipated.

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Health Care Enrollment Program

Program Purpose: To enroll veterans for health care through the Department of Veterans Assistance, and to advocate on behalf of the veteran for ongoing medical care to maximize potential benefits and services.

Total Expenditures: \$68,303

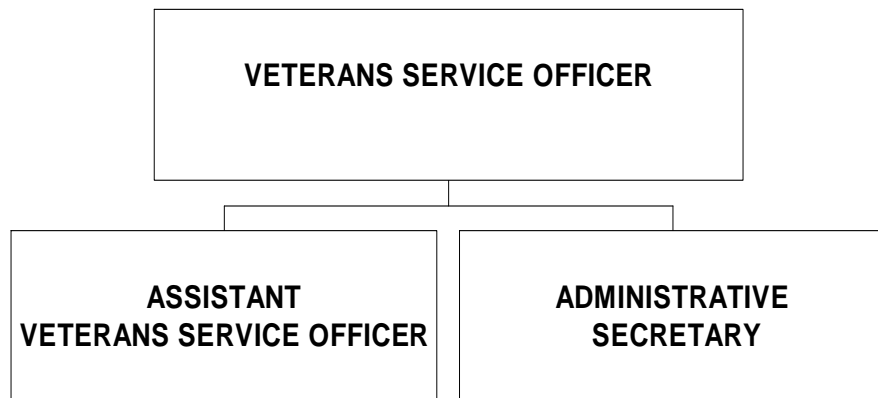
Total Staffing: 0.70

- **Key Intended Outcome:** Veterans achieve maximum health care benefits.

Health Care Enrollment Indicators:	Actual 2002-03	Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Projected 2005-06
# of claims filed	129	106	75	85

Program Comments: FY 2003-04 is the first full year of restricted access to the Veterans Assistance Health Care System. The result is that fewer veterans are now eligible for enrollment.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER



POSITIONS: 3

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
APPROPRIATION SUMMARY
Fiscal Year 2005-06**

ADMINISTERED BY: VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Appropriation	FY 2004-05		FY 2005-06	
	Actual	Position Allocations	BOS Adopted Budget	Position Allocations
GENERAL FUND Veterans Service Officer	\$ 259,286	3	\$ 285,220	3
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 259,286	3	\$ 285,220	3

Veterans Service Officer

General Fund

Fund: 100

Subfund: 0

Appropriation: 53650

Budget Category (1)	Actual 2003-04 (2)	Actual 2004-05 (3)	Dept Req 2005-06 (4)	CEO Rec 2005-06 (5)	BOS Adopted 2005-06 (6)
Salaries & Benefits					
1002 Salaries and Wages	162,144	165,312	180,091	180,091	180,091
1300 P.E.R.S.	15,742	29,231	36,989	36,989	36,989
1301 F.I.C.A.	12,289	13,296	13,777	13,777	13,777
1310 Employee Group Ins	18,838	22,902	31,499	25,625	25,625
1315 Workers Comp Insurance	641	1,443	2,092	1,358	1,358
Total Salaries & Benefits	209,654	232,184	264,448	257,840	257,840
Services & Supplies					
2051 Communications - Telephone	9,422	8,708	11,796	11,796	11,796
2439 Membership/Dues	350	350	350	350	350
2481 PC Acquisition		1,513			
2511 Printing	581	644	500	500	500
2523 Office Supplies & Exp	500	585	700	700	700
2524 Postage	589	513	750	750	750
2554 Commissioner's Fees	4,064	5,402	5,000	5,000	5,000
2555 Prof/Spec Svcs - Purchased		1,788			
2709 Rents & Leases - Computer SW	857	877	1,134	1,134	1,134
2710 Rents & Leases - Equipment			800	800	800
2840 Special Dept Expense	600	600	1,650	750	750
2844 Training	600	600	600	600	600
2931 Travel & Transportation	1,751	3,106	3,000	3,000	3,000
2932 Mileage	1,484	2,416	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Services & Supplies	20,798	27,102	28,280	27,380	27,380
Gross Budget	230,452	259,286	292,728	285,220	285,220
Net Budget	230,452	259,286	292,728	285,220	285,220
Less: Revenues					
7204 State Aid Veterans Affairs	(24,037)	(26,295)	(20,812)	(20,812)	(20,812)
7234 State Aid - Mandated Costs			(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)
8780 Contributions from Other Funds	(13,000)	(3,530)			
Total Revenues	(37,037)	(29,825)	(22,312)	(22,312)	(22,312)
Net County Cost	193,415	229,461	270,416	262,908	262,908